

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 234219

TOSEC 75

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC FROM TOKYO 24 OCT 74:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 13861

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR JA

SUBJ: NUCLEAR WEAPONS DISCUSSION AT FORTHCOMING US-JAPAN SUMMIT
MEETING

REF: TOKYO 13401

SUMMARY: POLITICAL PRESSURES GENERATED BY LAROCQUE TESTIMONY AND
RELATED NEWS REPORTS HAVE APPARENTLY BEGUN TO INFLUENCE GOJ
TOWARD
VIEW THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS ISSUE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED IN SUMMIT TALKS
DURING PRESIDENT FORD'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO JAPAN. FINANCE
MIN OHIRA TOLD DIET COMMITTEE OCTOBER 22 HE HOPES THE PRESIDENT
AND PRIMIN TANAKA WOULD DISCUSS THE QUESTION NEXT MONTH. A SIMILAR
VIEW WAS EXPRESSED BY STATE MINISTER TOKUSABURO KOSAKA, DIRGEN OF
PRIMIN OFFICE, IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH SENATOR HUGH SCOTT.
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OF INTEREST IS FACT THAT THESE VIEWS DIFFER FROM EARLIER STATEMENT IN DIET BY FONMIN KIMURA THAT GOJ HAD NO PLANS TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH U.S.

1. RESPONDING TO SOCIALIST QUESTIONING IN UPPER HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE OCT 22, FINANCE MIN OHIRA ERPORTEDLY STATED THAT HE HOPED THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS QUESTION WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT MONTH'S SUMMIT TALKS IN TOKYO. ALTHOUGH OHIRA'S REPLY DID NOT PURPORT TO REPRESENT OFFICIAL POLICY, IT DIFFERED FROM REMARKS MADE LAST WEEK BY FONMIN KIMURA WHO SAID IN RESPONSE TO DIET QUESTIONING THAT THE GOJ HAD NO PLANS TO DISCUSS THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS ISSUE WITH THE U.S.

2. STATE MINISTER AND DIRGEN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE TOKUSABURO KOSAKA TOLD SENATOR HUGH SCOTT AT A DINNER MEETING OCT 23 THAT HE FELT IT EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT PRESIDENT FORD SHOULD SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS ISSUE THAT WOULD ALLAY THE WIDESPREAD POPULAR ANXIETY CAUSED BY THE LAROCQUE TESTIMONY AND OTHER ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING THE PRESENCE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON US WARSHIPS VISITING JAPAN. HE SAID THAT WHILE MANY JAPANESE HAS SUSPECTED THAT NUCLEAR-CAPABLE SHIPS MIGHT BE CARRYING NUKES DESPITE DENIALS, LAROCQUE TESTIMONY HAD CONVINCED MOST OF PEOPLE THAT THESE SUSPICISONS WERE TRUE.

3. ACCORDING TO A REPORT IN THE SANKEI NEWSPAPER, A GOJ SOURCE REVEALED ON OCT 23 THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO TAKE UP THE NUCLEAR PROBLEM IN THE FORD-TANAKA TALKS AND MAY SEEK TO INCORPORATE INTO THE FINAL JOINT COMMUNIQUE A "CLEARER" STATEMENT ON THE ISSUE THAT WOULD SERVE TO DISPEL THE SUSPICIONS AROUSED BY THE LAROCQUE TESTIMONY. SANKEI SPECULATED THAT THE NEW STATEMENT WOULD PROBABLY BE ESSENTIALLY A RECONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS POSITIONS BUT ADDED THAT THE REASONS WHY THE GOJ FELT SOMETHING POSITIVE HAD TO BE DONE WAS THAT STRONG VOICES AMONG THE GOJ LEADERSHIP ARE PRESSING FOR FUTTHER DISCUSSION AND CLARIFICATION OF THE NUCLEAR ISSUE IN THE SUMMIT TALKS.

4. COMMENT. WE HAVE RECEIVED NO OFFICIAL INDICATION FROM THE GOJ OF ITS POSITION ON HANDLING THIS ISSUE IN COMMUNIQUE OR PRESIDENTIAL VISIT GENERALLY. HODGSON UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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